

STATE SENATOR • MICHAEL PRUSI • 38TH DISTRICT  
**Prusi Press Release**

P.O. Box 30036 • Lansing • Michigan • 48909-7536 • 517-373-7840 • Fax: 517-373-3932  
E-mail: [senmprusi@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:senmprusi@senate.michigan.gov) • [www.senate.state.mi.us/dem/SD38](http://www.senate.state.mi.us/dem/SD38)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**January 21, 2004**

**Contact: Sen. Mike Prusi**  
**Phone: 517-373-7840**  
**Toll Free: 866-305-2038**

## **PRUSI PROTESTS CONTINUING REFUSAL OF MI DNR TO ALLOW SUPPLEMENTAL FEEDING IN UPPER PENINSULA**

**LANSING** – State Senator Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) today expressed frustration at the refusal of the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources to allow any supplemental feeding of white-tailed deer in the Upper Peninsula, even on a limited supervisory basis. As a part of MDNR's continuing efforts to prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) and Bovine Tuberculosis into Michigan, the department instituted a ban on all supplemental feeding of deer in June 2003.

"U.P. sportsmen have practiced responsible feeding of the white-tailed deer population for decades," Prusi said. "While I appreciate the intentions of the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to stem the spread of CWD and Bovine TB into Michigan, this one-size-fits-all approach needs revision."

The effects of the supplemental feeding ban are hitting populations in various Deer Management Units (DMUs) along the Lake Superior shoreline especially hard. The senator believes that characteristics such as yearly snowfall, the Winter Severity Index, and population variances between DMUs should all be considered to enable the DNR to determine where supplemental feeding waivers could be granted. Additionally, he believes the previous supplemental feeding policy narrowly rescinded by the NRC last June allowing limited feeding is preferable to the current total ban and may warrant consideration.

One particular example of the detrimental effects of the supplemental feeding ban exists in the Keweenaw Peninsula, where deer herds are isolated from the rest of the Upper Peninsula by the Portage Canal and withstand an annual snowfall of over 250 inches.

Prusi also said, "I have met with MDNR and Administration officials to actively pursue granting emergency waivers to the supplemental feeding ban within selected DMUs throughout the U.P., and I want to thank the numerous sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts who have contacted my office to share their concerns regarding supplemental feeding. I assure them I will continue working with the department to revise this NRC policy."

#####

Mike Prusi serves as Democratic Vice Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. He represents the 38<sup>th</sup> Senate District, which includes all Upper Peninsula counties west of Luce County.